

*32*  
*C2*  
*Cont*

wherein a reduction rate of a thickness of said circular-shaped hollow metal structure after spinning worked to a thickness of said circular-shaped hollow metal structure before spinning worked is equal to or greater than 40%, said circular-shaped metal structure having a Vickers hardness Hv equal to or greater than 380 after plastic-worked.

*Dale*  
*C3*

18. (Twice Amended) A fixing belt to be used in a heat fixing device, said fixing belt being comprised of a circular-shaped hollow metal structure fabricated by spinning working and having a thickness equal to or small than 0.09 mm, wherein a reduction rate of a thickness of said circular-shaped hollow metal structure after spinning worked to a thickness of said circular-shaped hollow metal structure before spinning worked is equal to or greater than 40%, said circular-shaped metal structure having a Vickers hardness Hv equal to or greater than 380 after plastic-worked.

#### REMARKS

Independent claims 1, 16 and 18 have been amended to incorporate the limitations of claim 4, which has been canceled. No new matter has been entered.

Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121, a marked copy of the amended claims accompanies this amendment.

Before considering the art rejections, it should be noted that Applicants' claims, while admittedly making reference to certain production steps, are not claiming the production steps *per se*. Rather, Applicants' references, in the claims, to the production steps, characterize physical properties of the claimed products, i.e., after the metal is spin worked. That is to say, Applicants' claims are directed to physical properties of a circular-shaped hollow metal structure, and specify particular measurable properties, namely, thickness and Vickers

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